

What is claimed is:

1. A storage server comprising:
 - a plurality of server modules, each of said server modules containing a processor and a buffer coupled to a respective plurality of storage devices defined in an array; and
 - a cross bar switch coupled to said server modules, where said server modules accept data requests from a plurality of clients, each of said server modules issues data retrieval commands only to the respective plurality of storage devices, and said cross bar switch routes data from said server modules to said clients requesting said data.